

*acme*

July 11, 1958

Hi Dean,

Have you seen Jonathan Leonard's book Flight into Space? I just ran into it as a Modern Library paperback. His chapter on "other-worldly life" has a remarkably familiar ring to it, and we don't have to concede very much poetic license, though some of his other chapters are de trop, (e.g. the "fungi" of p. 242).

I am sending another paper back you may want to see: Oparin and Fesenkov. (I have a duplicate of this.)

The Genetics S.S. is meeting at Bethesda on September 25-26 and I hope to see you around then. We're off to Europe meantime (leaving here July 25, then to Paris, Stockholm, London, Scotland and home via San Francisco about Sept 11). You'd best contact me through the Madison office if anything comes up meanwhile, or could catch me at the Microbiology Congress in Stockholm.

Hal is designing a satellite experiment on spore viability in space (vacuum + radiation). The Air Force solicitation for proposals was revoked (by ARPA, NASA?) but we had a telegram from Berkner suggesting routing through NAS Space Committee. I imagine you've had or heard about the same notice. Any reactions from your side? (I'm not getting into the game experimentally just yet.)

A letter from Urey - rather hostile. He's afraid the biologists will mess up the program with unsound precautions!

Also, a paper from I. Cooper and A. C. Wilson, "Interplanetary Bio-migration and Space Contamination"; they were at the Washington meeting in May. They're at the Rand Corporation (Santa Monica, Calif.) and worked up pretty much the same prospectus as we did, possibly more tangible intentions.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg